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COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT TOPIC Military Information from Potsdam

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REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On and after 8 January 1954, the Unteroffizier Schule in Potsdam was occupied by about 250 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, some with artillery and motor transport insignia. On 31 December 1953, about 40 EM with carbines entered the installation. There was no other activity.
2. On 8 January, the Polizei Kaserne was occupied by about 400 troops with black-bordered crimson epaulets. On 4 January, 12 EM entered the installation. Three trucks were parked in the barracks yard.
3. On 8 January, the Adolf Hitler Kaserne was occupied by about 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, some with tank and motor transport insignia. On 4 January, troops observed in the billeting area included about 40 EM engaged in close-order drill, about 15 EM receiving instruction on two trucks, and about 10 EM laying field cables. Driving school with about 25 trucks was seen at Bornstedter Feld. On 5 January, T-34/85 tanks left the installation toward Bornim.
4. On 8 January, the Kriegsschule was occupied by about 600 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, some with artillery insignia. Between 4 and 8 January, 40 to 60 EM practiced close-order drill in the billeting area; and 60 to 150 EM were engaged in field training at Bornstedter Feld.
5. On 8 January, no activity was seen at the barracks installation Wildpark West.
6. At about 12:20 p.m. on 5 January, seven prime movers towed a 152-mm gun howitzer each from the direction of Nedlitz toward Golm along Amundsen Strasse. At about 11 a.m. on 8 January, 15 EM did aiming practice with two 152-mm gun howitzers in the area northwest of Amundsen Strasse.
7. On 10 January, the Kavallerie Schule at Krampnitz was occupied by 6,000 to 7,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery, signal and motor transport insignia. On 4 January, about 400 EM were engaged in the construction of tunnels and entrenching work in the Bullenwinkel area. The tunnels were dug into the slope of the hills and supported by wooden frames. A six-wheel armored

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personnel carrier drove into one of the tunnels. A prime mover towing a 152-mm field gun left the Bullenwinkel area toward Kramnitz. Between 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., 800 to 1,000 troops were engaged in a field exercise in the Bullenwinkel area. A group of 14 T-34/85 tanks with mounted infantry advanced toward enemy field fortifications. Tank gun fire was responded by machine gun and AT fire from the enemy positions. At a distance of about 300 meters, the infantry dismounted and advanced toward the field fortifications. The field exercise extended over the entire Bullenwinkel area 1 to 2 kilometers south of the road from Kramnitz to Gross Glienicke. Four trucks towing a 57-mm AT gun each were standing near this road. On 8 January, a similar field exercise was conducted in the same area. Truck [] and jeep [] were seen. Three 152-mm field guns were emplaced near the Kramnitz-Gross Glienicke road. Four prime movers, [] were parked near the emplacement. Three other 152-mm field guns were seen in the Giebelkenn area with prime movers [] standing nearby.

8. On 5 January, the Unteroffizier Schule was occupied by about 150 troops with red-bordered black epaulets. No activity was observed. Trucks [] were seen.

9. On 5 January, the Polizei Kaserne was occupied by about 350 troops with black-bordered crimson and red-bordered black epaulets. On 31 December, about 12 AM [] left the installation toward Ruinenberg.

10. On 5 January, unusually many soldiers mostly wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia were observed in the streets of Potsdam. []

11. On 9 January, the Kavallerie Schule at Kramnitz was occupied to capacity with 11,000 to 12,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, some with artillery and tank insignia. On several days between 15 December and 8 January, 250 to 300 troops drilled in the billeting area. On 20 December, 10 trucks, [] occupied by soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets left the installation toward Satz Korn. On 23 December, rocket launchers [] entered the installation, coming from the direction of Kramnitz. On 26 December, six trucks with ammunition, [] came from the direction of Satz Korn and entered the installation. On 28 December, about 100 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and armed with submachine guns left the installation toward Aratzow. []

Comment. []

The two T-34/85 tanks, to a certain extent, confirm the 63rd Gds Tank Regt of the 10th Gds Tank Div at the Adolf Hitler Kaserne. As a tank division is not equipped with 152-mm field guns, probably elements with howitzers of the unidentified artillery regiment of the 10th Gds Tank Div participated in the field exercise which was conducted by the division in the southern sector of the Doeberitz troop training grounds. []

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